



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

City of San Diego
Planning & Development Review
Building Development Review
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Building Newsletter 15-2

Roof Slopes

Interpretations of State and Local Building Codes
1998 California Building Code: Chapter 15
Revision Date: July 1999

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I. Roof Slopes

Table Nos. 15-B-1 and 15-B-2 of the Building Code require the following minimum roof slopes:

Asphalt shingles 2 in 12

Wood shingles 3 in 12

Wood shakes 4 in 12

II. Minimum Requirements

The following requirements must be met in order to use the above minimum roof slopes.

A. Asphalt strip shingles may be installed on slopes as low as 2 inches in 12 inches in a temperate climate, provided the shingles are approved self-sealing or are hand-sealed and are installed with an underlayment consisting of two layers of nonperforated Type 15 felt applied shingle fashion. Only solid sheathing is permitted. See Table No. 15-B-1 for severe climate requirements and for relaxation of requirements when roof slope is 4:12 and over.

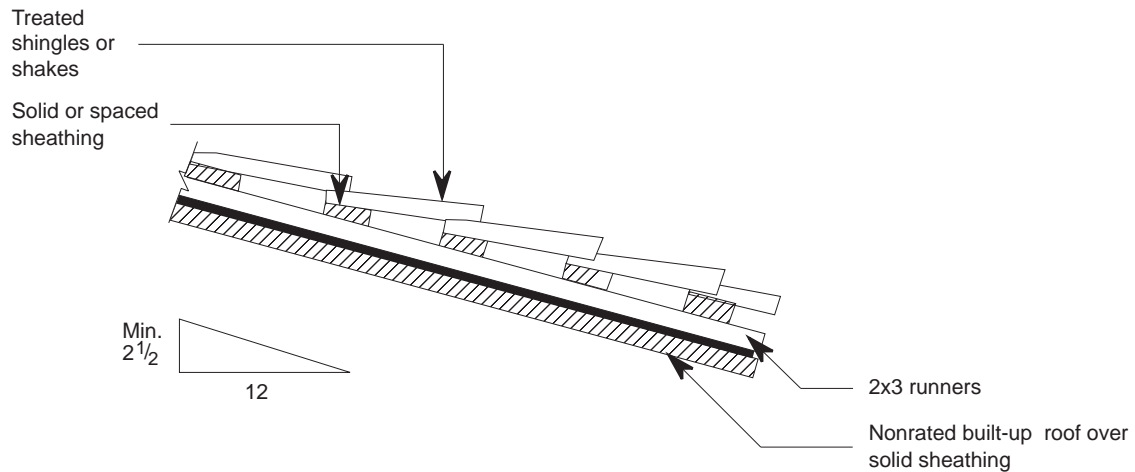
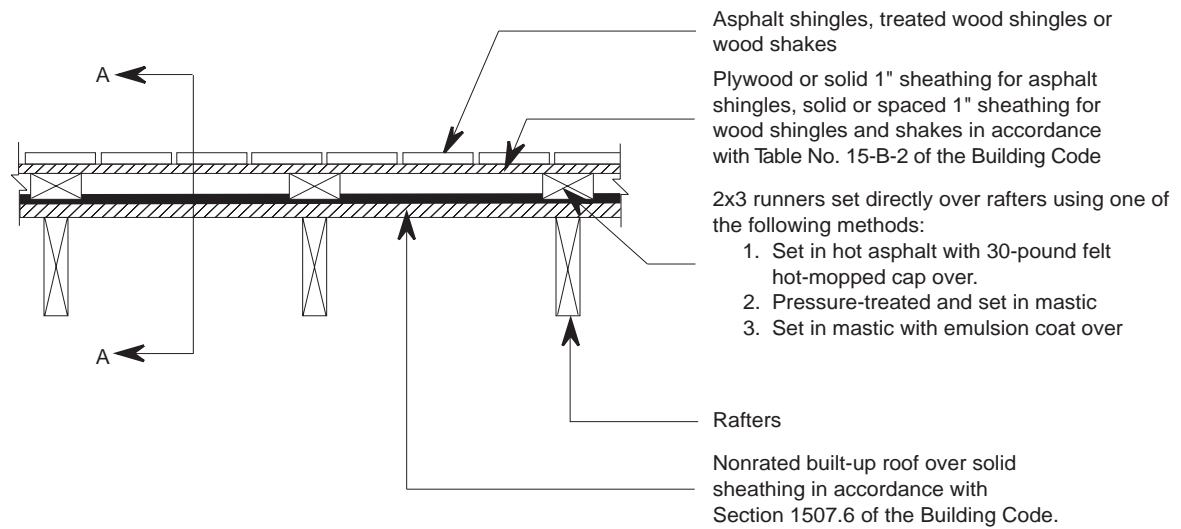
B. Wood shingles may be installed on slopes as low as 3 inches in 12 inches in a temperate climate with no requirements for underlayment provided such shingles are installed with a maximum weather exposure per Table No. 15-C. Solid or spaced sheathing is permitted. See Table No. 15-B-2 for severe climate requirements.

C. Wood shakes may be installed on slopes of not less than 3 inches in 12 inches when approved by the building official and when an underlayment of not less than nonperforated Type 15 felt is installed. Wood shakes installed on slopes of not less than 4 inches in 12 inches are permitted in a temperate climate with no requirements for underlayment. Temperate climates require an 18-inch-wide interlayment of Type 30 felt shingled between each course for all slopes. Solid or spaced sheathing is permitted. See Table No. 15-B-2 for severe climate requirements; only solid sheathing is permitted in this instance. All wood shakes are to be installed with a maximum weather exposure per Table No. 15-C.

D. Asphalt shingles, wood shingles and wood shakes may be installed on a nonrated built-up roof over solid sheathing with a slope of not less than 2¹/₂ inches in 12 inches provided the roof construction complies with that shown in Figure 1. Wood shingles and shakes must be installed with a maximum exposure to weather as indicated in Table No. 15-C for a slope of 3 inches in 12 inches.

III. Fire Ratings

With the adoption of the 1998 California Building Code the Department now requires single family residences (R-3) and accessory structures (U-1) to have a minimum Class B fire retardant roofing assembly for all new roofs and complete reroofs.

Figure 1/Installation of shingles or shakes over a nonrated built-up roof**Section A-A**